

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
June 20, 2013

SUBJECT: New Green Fee Requests

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Review and take action on a Green Fee for FAMU and FSU.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Regulation 7.003

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pursuant to Regulation 7.003 (23) university boards of trustees may submit a request for a new fee. Two universities, FAMU and FSU, have submitted a request for a Green Fee. Summaries of these fees are shown below and the complete submission is included in the Budget and Finance Committee materials.

FAMU Green Fee - FAMU is requesting a Green Fee of \$.50 per credit hour or \$15 for a student 30 credit hours. The Green Fee will support energy efficiency and renewable energy at Florida A&M University through educational, structural, research, or service-learning projects to improve the sustainability and environmental literacy of the greater FAMU community (that is, the Tallahassee campus, satellite campuses, and other off-campus facilities).

FSU Green Fee - FSU is requesting a Green Fee of \$.50 per credit hour or \$15 for a student taking 30 credit hours. The Green Fee is an initiative to give students at Florida State University the power to establish a small fee to support sustainable initiatives and projects on their campus. The fee would help support efficiency, conservation, and sustainability-related projects (water, energy, waste, alternative transportation, food, etc.) that reduce FSU's energy costs, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and waste.

Regulation 7.003 provides the following submission criteria and guidelines when

considering and proposing a new fee:

- (a) The proposal shall be submitted in a format designated by the Chancellor, and include at a minimum:
 1. The purpose to be served or accomplished with the fee.
 2. The demonstrable student-based need for the fee that is currently not being met through existing university services, operations or another fee.
 3. The process used to assure substantial student input or involvement.
 4. Any proposed restrictions, limitations, or conditions to be placed on the fee.
 5. The financial impact of the fee on students, including those with financial need.
 6. The estimated revenue to be collected and proposed expenditures for the new fee.
 7. The outcome measures that will be implemented to determine when the purpose of the fee will be accomplished.
- (b) The aggregate sum of any fees approved by the Board that a student is required to pay to register for a course shall not exceed 10 percent of tuition. All other fees shall be based on cost.
- (c) The fee can only be implemented in the fall term.
- (d) The revenue generated by this fee may not be transferred to an auxiliary enterprise or a direct-support organization and may not be used to pay or secure debt.
- (e) The university shall account for the revenue and detailed expenditures of this fee in the Annual Report.
- (f) The fee cannot be an extension of, or cover the same services, as an existing statutory fee.
- (g) The fee cannot be utilized to create additional bonding capacity in an existing fee.
- (h) The fee should support a new service or activity that is not currently supported or should be supported with education and general funds (state and tuition).
- (i) The fee shall not supplant revenue from other sources that are currently used or have been used to support a service or activity.
- (j) The fee should support a service or activity in which a majority of students is able to participate or from which derive a benefit.
- (k) Once the Board approves a fee under this section, a university fee committee shall be established similar to other existing fee committees.
- (l) The Board will act upon the budget committee recommendation at the next scheduled meeting.
- (m) Every five years the university board of trustees shall review the fee to determine if the fee has met its intended outcomes and whether the fee should be increased, decreased or discontinued. The university board of trustees shall

submit its findings to the Board. Any subsequent decreases or continuation in these fees are delegated to the university board of trustees, with notification to the Chancellor.

Supporting Documentation Included: Materials located behind the Budget & Finance Committee agenda